



More Books, Longer Hours  
and More Room to Read

Vote YES on 6A!

Support Anythink Libraries  
8488 East 54th Place  
Denver, CO 80238

Not paid for with taxpayer funds.

## LIFELONG LEARNING Begins With Our Libraries



“As a pediatrician in Thornton, I understand the importance of early literacy for ensuring children are ready for kindergarten. Libraries are critical for preparing kids for their future.”

- Dr. Yadira Caraveo

VOTE YES 6A  
Anythink LIBRARIES



# VOTE YES on 6A

## for Anythink Libraries

Anythink provides Adams County residents with the exceptional public libraries and services they deserve. It is time to increase its 2006 funding level so that this cultural resource can adequately serve the families, children, and seniors in our rapidly growing community.

### Q: What is Anythink Libraries?

Anythink Libraries (aka Rangeview Library District) is the public library system for Adams County. In September 2009, the library system rebranded as Anythink after developing its people-centered approach to library service. Anythink serves Adams County residents in the communities of Bennett, Brighton, Commerce City, Federal Heights, Northglenn, Thornton, and unincorporated Adams County, with seven library branches and a bookmobile.

### Q: Why is Anythink going to the voters for more revenue?

The challenges of population growth have put pressures on budgets, staff, and physical capacity. Anythink operates as one of the leanest library systems in Colorado, providing library services, programs and collections on one of the lowest budgets in the Denver metro area. Though Anythink's mill levy rate has been the same for the past 13 years, Adams County has added nearly 90,000 residents. The library system can no longer sustain and expand library services at this 2006 funding level.

### Q: What are the most pressing issues at our libraries?

Only three of Anythink's seven branches are currently open on Monday, and only one on Sunday, meaning children and families don't always have access to the library when they need it. Just this summer, children's programs created for 40 attendees had more than 300 attendees, impacting the experience for each child despite the hard work and flexibility of their staff. Booking a meeting room, using a computer and even finding a place to sit is a challenge at many locations.



### Q: Why do we need libraries now that we have the internet?

Public libraries these days are much more than warehouses for books. They are local community gathering places, free and open to everybody to borrow and download books, receive research and homework help, take free classes, learn English, get career mentoring and job training skills, early childhood



development assistance, and after-school programs. Public libraries provide free access to the internet for those who cannot afford it, closing the digital divide.

### Q: Besides providing books to borrow at no cost, what other services does Anythink Libraries provide the public?

The free services that Anythink provides include story times for kids, after-school programs for students, workforce development training and mentorship, one-on-one tech help for seniors, lifelong learning programs for people of all ages, and gathering spaces for groups and events. Anythink's bookmobile travels to parts of the county not currently served by a physical location. In partnership with Food Bank of the Rockies, Anythink Libraries serve as distribution points for meals to kids in need. Last year, over 24,000 kids participated in Anythink's food program. More than 80,000 people participated in some aspect of the library's diverse program offerings.

### Q: What is the source of Anythink Libraries' revenue?

The primary source of revenue – nearly 90 percent – is collected from a portion of property tax paid by homeowners and commercial properties within the district boundaries. The remaining 10 percent is generated by grants, fees, donations and a portion of motor vehicle sales tax.

### Q: How much new revenue will ballot question 6A raise?

If approved by the voters this fall, ballot question 6A will generate \$12.3 million per year in additional revenue for expanded programming, three new branches, longer branch hours, renovated physical spaces, more books and workforce-development resources. Every Anythink branch benefits if the ballot question passes.

### Q: What will the proposed mill levy override cost taxpayers?

If the proposed 2.2 mill levy increase (ballot question 6A) is approved by district voters, Anythink Libraries will generate an additional \$12.3 million per year. For a home valued at \$300,000, that's \$47.52 per year – or \$1.32 per month for every \$100,000 of actual residential value. For less than 20 cents per day, Anythink can continue to provide after-school learning programs, senior services, vocational and career training, as well as expanding its programs, collections and library spaces to serve our rapidly growing community.

### Q: How much has Adams County's population grown?

Since 2006, nearly 90,000 new residents have moved to Adams County. In the next five years, Adams County is projected to grow by another 43,000 residents. In order to continue providing exceptional library services, Anythink needs additional funding.

### Q: Isn't there any part of Anythink's budget that could be reallocated to meet the needs of a growing community?

Right now, Anythink's materials budget is the lowest of any library district its size in the Denver metro area. Anythink ranks near the bottom of local revenue per capita and has one of the lowest expenditure rates per capita in Colorado. Unless new revenue is approved soon, Anythink will not be able to sustain its current level of service while also keeping up with the growing demand for its programming for kids, seniors, job seekers, and adult learners.

### Q: How will the revenue from the mill levy override be allocated?

The library will use the additional taxpayer support to expand literacy programs for kids and after-school programs for kids and teens, increase services to seniors, provide additional lifelong learning opportunities for students and adults, extend library hours, complete branch renovations, add technology and workforce development resources, purchase additional books and digital materials, construct two new libraries and develop a career-centered library.

### Q: How many people do Anythink Libraries serve?

The population of Anythink's service area is more than 400,000. In 2018, more than 1.1 million community members visited an Anythink branch, 2.2 million books and videos were checked out, and its website generated more than 1.9 million visits. That same year, Anythink hosted more than 80,000 people at its classes, concerts or other special programs. Anythink accomplished all of the above with fewer than 170 staff across the district, including management and support staff.

### Q: When was the last time the voters approved a mill levy increase for Anythink Libraries?

In 2006, the Adams County community passed an increase in the mill to 3.69. For perspective, the average mill levy rate for the seven school districts in Adams County is 25.75.<sup>1</sup>

### Q: What happens if 6A doesn't pass?

If voters don't approve this small mill levy increase, Anythink's ability to sustain its current level of service will become increasingly difficult. Our children will not have access to adequate library services because we do not have the space or resources to provide the necessary collections, programs, and staff. Longer wait times for books, fewer copies of books and other materials, over-crowded story times, growing demand for career services, and increasingly limited physical space at some branches will continue to restrict Anythink's ability to provide for the growing communities they serve.

<sup>1</sup>Colorado Department of Education

## Doing More with Less

### OPEN HOURS

At the current funding level, Anythink is able to offer fewer total open hours and fewer evening and weekend hours than most libraries on the Front Range.

Library	Average open hours per week, per branch	Evening & Weekend hours per week
Denver Public Library	45.7	459
Pikes Peak Library District	53.9	331
High Plains Library District (Weld County)	53.5	280
Jefferson County Public Library	53.6	243
Arapahoe Library District	55.1	218
Douglas County Libraries	58.5	158
<b>Anythink Libraries</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>124</b>

### MATERIALS

Anythink's budget for materials is smaller than most libraries on the Front Range.

Library	Total collection expenditures	Materials expenditures per capita
Denver Public Library	\$6,049,671	\$8.57
Pikes Peak Library District	\$4,595,225	\$7.07
High Plains Library District (Weld County)	\$1,851,539	\$6.53
Jefferson County Public Library	\$8,170,418	\$14.20
Arapahoe Library District	\$3,582,643	\$13.54
Douglas County Libraries	\$3,637,645	\$10.84
<b>Anythink Libraries</b>	<b>\$2,603,070</b>	<b>\$6.70</b>

### CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

At the current funding level, Anythink is not able to provide the same number of children's programs as other libraries on the Front Range.

Library	Number of Children's Programs
Denver Public Library	19,555
Pikes Peak Library District	5,968
High Plains Library District (Weld County)	4,197
Jefferson County Public Library	8,696
Arapahoe Library District	4,310
Douglas County Libraries	5,542
<b>Anythink Libraries</b>	<b>2,352</b>

**VOTE**  
**YES 6A**  
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**Anythink LIBRARIES**